

REMARKS

The Abstract of Disclosure was amended in the Preliminary Amendment dated November 21, 2001, to not exceed 150 words as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). Compliance with this rule was established, prior to filing the Preliminary Amendment and again prior to filing this response, using Microsoft Word 2000. The entire abstract was selected in the active window and the "Word Count" option of the word processor engaged. Each time, Microsoft Word indicated a total of 150 words. Hence, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Abstract meets the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b).

If, however, the Office has any guidance concerning its method of word counting that might explain the allegation that the Abstract does not meet the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), such guidance is requested in the Office's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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